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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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11/21/2002

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EXAMINER

FOX, JOHN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3753

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/ 445945

Applicant(s)

Welsh et al

Examiner

fx

Group Art Unit

3753

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/28/01, & 8/21/02
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 15-23, 25-26, 29-45 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 15-23, 25-26, 27, 38-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 30-37 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Serial Number: 09/445945

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Art Unit: 3753

This action is responsive to the telephone interview of August 21, 2002 with Mr. Arno.

Applicant's argument that the details of the valve is not essential to the invention, and that a routineer could make and use the invention without undue experimentation, is considered to be persuasive and the §112 rejection is withdrawn.

Claims 15-23, 25-26,²⁹ and 38-45 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Election of Group II, claims 30-37, was made without traverse in Paper No. 14. JP

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 30-31, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Krechel et al. Krechel et al show a gas cylinder valve with inlet 9, filler check valve 13, discharge 31, valve 41 and actuator 56. The valve of Krechel et al is inherently "adapted", or fit, to be used with a filling station that is "capable of being automated".

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Krechel et al in view of Sakai et al. Krechel et al show the claimed valve except for a check valve in the discharge line. Sakai et al teach an outlet check valve 13 to prevent back flow into the tank when the main valve is open. It

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would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such a check valve in the valve of Krechel et al.

Claims 34 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Krechel et al. Making the discharge 31 of Krechel et al integral with the main body is considered to be an obvious variation thereof. Making the inlet and the outlet of the same size and shape is considered to be an obvious matter of design choice.

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Krechel et al in view of Oxley et al. Krechel et al show the claimed invention except for the groove on the filling union. Oxley et al shows an automatic cylinder filling apparatus which includes a groove 62 on the filling union of the cylinder to latch to the filling head. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such a groove on the filling union of Krechel et al to provide for the use of an automatic filling head such as taught by Oxley et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Fox at (703) 308-2595 or John.Fox@uspto.gov. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861. The fax number for Art Unit 3753 is (703) 308-7765. The Supervisory Primary Examiner for Art

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Art Unit: 3753

Unit 3753 is Michael Buiz who can be reached at (703) 308-2580 or
at Michael.Buiz@uspto.gov.



JOHN FOX
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3753

jcf
November 19, 2002